

April 22, 1959

Dr. Leonard A. Herzenberg  
National Institute of Health  
Bethesda 14, Maryland

Dear Len:

I have just come from an Executive Committee meeting with some interesting consequences for the Genetics Department and for your program in particular. As an accommodation to another prospective appointee, but really much more for our own benefit, I have given up the commitment we now have for space in the Pharmacology-Anatomy Building. Instead, we have an assignment for what should be at least equally useful space in the basement of the Edwards Building. The main advantage of this is, of course, that we will now be in the same building although separated by three floors. There is a convenient elevator. The area in question will be next to space assigned to Dr. Kretchmer for the Pediatrics Department. He has indicated the likelihood of developing a program with some rather elaborate ramifications into biochemistry, genetics and tissue culture so from this aspect too, you will not be lonely.

The main problem this raises is one of timing. It is possible (by no means certain!) that we may not easily be able to get the new quarters ready for you before January 1. I am writing now just to explore how this would effect your own plans. If it would work no great hardship on you to postpone your arrival until that time, I think we could do the job somewhat more easily and possibly better. However, if this does raise serious difficulties for you we will find some way of arranging matters to your convenience. Don't worry about any possible bearing this has on your research grant; in fact it would be some advantage to have some lead time on it so that funds can be committed for your equipment in time for them to arrive at the same time you do.

I will wait to hear your reaction on this timing question. On the whole, I think this is a splendid improvement in our own prospects and should certainly make it much easier for us to communicate intimately.

As ever,

Joshua Lederberg